"We love it up here so much," said Gary Moore, his voice trembling. "We lost everything. But we're alive, thank goodness. Our neighbors are alive, most of them. And we're just so thankful for that."

A county mayor raised the death toll to 13 and said the number of damaged buildings now approached 1,000.

After days of waiting to see their homes, some of the shock began to give way to anger, and local authorities bristled when asked why they waited so long to order the evacuation.

"The city sure could have done a better job of getting us out of here," said Delbert Wallace, who lost his home. "When they got up that morning, when they seen that fire, we should have been on alert right then."

Sevier County Mayor Larry Waters and other officials noted the fire moved such a great distance so quickly it gave officials little time to react. Once they did, it was nearly too late.

Waters said it was not the time for "Monday morning quarterbacking" and promised a full review later.

John Matthews of the Sevier County Emergency Management Agency said a text alert telling people to evacuate went out around 9 p.m. Monday. But by that time, wildfires were raging in the area.

ASSOCIATED PRESS

The stone walls are all that stand Friday of the Roaring Fork Baptist Church in Gatlinburg, Tenn., following devastating wildfires from Monday night.

tain. We got off with the clothes on our back. We got off with a few pictures."

She found a coaster in the rubble that her 27-year-old daughter had made as a child. Half of it had bright colors and the other half was charred black. It still had her name, Brianna, written on the bottom in black marker.

The dead included a Memphis couple who was separated from their three sons during the wildfires. The sons — Jared, Wesley and Branson Summers — learned that their parents, Jon and Janet, had died as they were recovering in the hospital.

At a news conference, Jon Summers' brother Jim talked about the three young men's harrowing ordeal to get out of the mountain. They ran several miles.

"Quite frankly, the way the kids got down the mountain is a movie in and of itself," Jim Summers said. "I mean, it's just beyond belief. They went through walls of fire."

When authorities found the parents' bodies, they couldn't even identify them by photographs, Jim Summers said. They couldn't even weigh them.

Jared Summers was released from the hospital, and Vanderbilt University Medical Center plastic surgeon Dr. Blair Summitt said he anticipates the other two young men should be able to leave in about a week. The boys played in a band together and were on their first family vacation together in four years.

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A "missing" sign for Mountain Gate, Calif., resident Sherri Papini, 34, is placed alongside Sunrise Drive on Nov. 10, near the location where the mom of two is believed to have gone missing while on an afternoon jog Nov. 2.

California kidnap case baffles cops

BY PAUL ELIAS
ASSOCIATED PRESS

SAN FRANCISCO — Three weeks after Sherri Papini disappeared, the question of whether she was dead or alive was answered when the young mother and wife was spotted waving frantically for help along a California freeway early on Thanksgiving morning. But the mystery over what happened to her during those 22 days just seemed to grow stranger.

She was battered and bruised, her hands were chained, her long blond hair had been chopped off, and her flesh had been branded with a threatening message. The 34-year-old Papini told authorities that she had been kidnapped at gunpoint by two women Nov. 2 while she was out for a run near her home.

The bizarre turn of events — with many of the most sensational details released not by authorities but by her husband in an exclusive interview with ABC — has baffled police and set social media aflutter, with armchair detectives scouring the internet's darkest corners for clues and others arguing that the case is some kind of twisted hoax, like something out of the movie "Gone Girl."

Her husband, Keith Papini, has condemned the rumors as "exhausting and disgusting," and police have said they have no reason to doubt his wife's harrowing account. But they have a multitude of questions, among them: Who are these women? Where did they keep her? Was she selected at random or targeted?

And, most of all, why?

No ransom demand was ever received, and neither the Papinis nor their families are wealthy, according to Shasta County Sheriff Tom Bosenko. She is a stay-at-home mom, he a Best Buy store employee.

Detectives are tracking hundreds of leads but haven't elicited much information from Papini and have only the sketchiest description from her of her captors, who were said to be Hispanic. Authorities have not divulged the message burned into her skin, and she hasn't been seen publicly since she was found.

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